

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A system for testing a performance capability of a user drop in a communication network, the system comprising:
 - a host terminal coupled to the user drop via the communication network, wherein the host terminal is operable to:
 - provide a test signal to the user drop; and
 - authorize access to the test signal; wherein authorizing access to the test signal is based at least in part upon receiving a network sign-on identifier via the user drop.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the test signal is a video signal, the system further comprising:
 - a network video signal source to generate the video signal.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the test signal is a data signal, the system further comprising:
 - a network data test source to generate the data signal.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the test signal comprises a data signal and a video signal, the system further comprising:
 - a network video signal source to generate the video signal; and
 - a network data test source to generate the data signal.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1, the system further comprising:
 - a network entitlement controller arranged to identify a test device coupled to the user drop.
6. (Original) A method for testing a performance capability of a user drop in a communication network, the method comprising:

coupling a test device to the user drop, wherein the test device comprises a sign-on identifier that identifies the test device;

receiving a test signal at the test device, wherein the test signal is received at least in part based on the sign-on identifier; and

measuring the test signal to determine the performance capability of the user drop.

7. (Original) A method for implementing performance capability testing of a user drop in a communication network, the method comprising:

providing access at the user drop to a test signal from a central office;

receiving a network sign-on identifier at the central office, wherein the network sign-on identifier identifies a test device; and

authorizing access to the test signal by the test device.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the test signal is selected from the group consisting of a data test signal, a video test signal, and a VDSL test signal.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the test signal is a combination of two or more of the following signal types: a video signal, a data signal, or a VDSL signal.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein at least a portion of the test signal is a video signal, the method further comprising:

providing a video test source, wherein the video signal is produced by the video test source.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein at least a portion of the test signal is a data signal, the method further comprising:

providing a data test source, wherein the data signal is produced by the data test source.

Claims 12–14 (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 12, wherein the test device comprises a network sign-on identifier that identifies the test device, and wherein the signal is a test signal received at least in part based on the sign-on identifier.~~

A method for testing a performance capability of a user drop in a communication network, the method comprising:

coupling a test device to the user drop, wherein the test device comprises a network sign-on identifier that identifies the test device;

receiving a signal at the test device via the user drop, wherein the signal is a test signal received at least in part based on the sign-on identifier, and wherein the signal comprises a first signal type and a second signal type; and

measuring the signal to determine the performance capability of the user drop.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, the method further comprising:
signing on to the communication network using the network sign-on identifier,
wherein signing on provides access to the test signal.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the first signal type and the second signal type are selected from the group consisting of a data test signal, a video test signal, and a VDSL test signal.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[12]]~~ 15, wherein the first signal type is a data test signal and the performance capability is a data performance capability.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[12]]~~ 15, wherein the communication network comprises a DSL-based video and data communication network.

Claims 20–27 (Cancelled).

28. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the video signal comprises a MPEG video signal, and the network video signal source comprises an MPEG2 encoder.

29. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the host terminal comprises a set top box.

30. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the set top box comprises an identifier value that includes the network sign-on identifier.

31. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the identifier value comprises a MAC address.

32. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the host terminal is in communication with a universal system access multiplier on the communication network.

33. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the communication network comprises a fiber-to-the-neighborhood distribution system.

34. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the host terminal is in communication with broadband network unit on the communication network.

35. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the communication network comprises a fiber-to-the-curb distribution system.

36. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the sign-on identifier comprises a MAC address.

37. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the test signal is selected from the group consisting of a data test signal, a video test signal, and a VDSL test signal.

38. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the test signal is a combination of two or more of the following signal types: a video signal, a data signal, or a VDSL signal.

39. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein at least a portion of the test signal is a video signal, the method further comprising:
providing a video test source, wherein the video signal is produced by the video test source.